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**For Immediate Release
May 1, 2006**

Public Forum: Hearing the Voices of Immigrant Seniors in Toronto

Toronto, ON - On Saturday May 6, 2006 the **Chinese Canadian National Council Toronto Chapter** in association with its partners in the Alternative Planning Group (i.e., African Canadian Social Development Council, Council of Agencies Serving South Asians, and Hispanic Development Council) will be holding a public forum to discuss Poverty and Income Security Issues among Immigrant Seniors.

What: Hearing the Voices of Immigrant Seniors
Date: Saturday May 6, 2006
Time: 1:30 – 5:00 P.M.
Where: Cecil Community Centre
58 Cecil Street, Toronto, ON M5T 1N6
(1 block South of College, 1 block east off Spadina)
Attending Speakers: The Parliamentary Assistant to the Ontario Minister Responsible for Seniors Issues, Nicole Demers, Bloc Opposition Critic for Seniors Issues, Olivia Chow, Federal NDP, Maria Minna, Federal Liberal Opposition Critic for Seniors Issues, other invited politicians and senior civil servants, and Immigrant Seniors themselves.
Languages: Multilingual (Some Translation Available)

Refreshments and Entertainment will be provided at the forum.

Emerging evidence suggests that a significant proportion of immigrant seniors are living in abject poverty, as they do not have access to any income from government sources, are living with their children in family situations where the overall income is too low to support a decent living, or have to live off jobs in their senior years that can only provide marginal support. The APG partners are working with immigrant seniors and advocacy groups to redress the inequities existing in Canada's Old Age Security (OAS) Program, the Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS) Program and the Social Assistance system and how in particular it affects immigrant seniors.

On May 6, 2006, some 200 immigrant seniors from four the largest ethno-cultural communities, supported by the Alternative Planning Group, will be meeting with invited politicians and senior civil servants to highlight the plight of immigrant seniors, and to make recommendations for change. The media is hereby invited to cover this important forum, and we look forward to seeing you. For more information and RSVP, please contact the following organizations.

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Hispanic Development Council – Raul Herмосilla and Duberlis Ramos

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